Research.gov: Meeting the Needs of the Research Community

Research.gov – A New Initiative for the Research Community

Led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Research.gov is a new initiative that provides a menu of services tailored to the needs of the research community. Research.gov is a modernization of FastLane that provides next generation grants management capabilities to carry out NSF and partner agencies' research missions by enabling organizations and grantees to access a menu of grants management services for multiple federal agencies in one location.

Leading a Government-wide Initiative

In 2005, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) selected NSF to lead a research-focused grants consortium as part of the Grants Management Line of Business initiative. OMB selected NSF to lead this initiative for the research community because of NSF's:

- Focus on the research community
- High standards and performance to its customers
- Leadership position in the grants community

Modernizing FastLane through Research.gov

While NSF has achieved unprecedented success with FastLane, the system was built starting in 1994 and is in need of a major modernization. NSF is modernizing FastLane through Research.gov and will develop and deploy Research.gov in a measured, modular approach consistent with the way FastLane was built. This approach allows functionality to grow at the pace NSF and the community can fund and integrate into established business practices. Research.gov allows NSF to continue its leadership role and commitment to the broader research community by leveraging its FastLane capabilities to deliver a single web portal for research organizations to find relevant information and conduct grants business with federal research agencies.

Research.gov Fulfills the Research Community's Need for Streamlined Services

One of the greatest challenges the research community faces is the administrative burden associated with federal grants management. Each federal research grant-making agency administers grants differently, with varying business processes and policies, which creates undue burden for grantees.

A 2007 survey of research faculty conducted by the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) revealed that[1]:

- Sixty-five percent of researchers believe they could devote two additional hours per week to research if they had more assistance on administrative tasks.
- Faculty at U.S. universities and research organizations spend forty-two percent of research time on grants administrative tasks, on average sixteen percent of the work week.
- Time spent on administrative tasks related to federal grants represents an investment of more than eighty-five million dollars.

NSF's solution for alleviating this burden is Research.gov, which enables organizations and grantees to access streamlined research grants management services and other resources for multiple federal agencies in one location. Research.gov will continue to develop and implement grants management service offerings that fulfill demand in the research community and expand services for other federal agencies.

---

[1] *A Profile of Federal-Grant Administrative Burden among Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty*, Faculty Standing Committee of the Federal Demonstration Partnership (January 2007).